



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,437	04/16/2004	Eduardo L. Quioc	5702-01051	1043
7590 10/31/2008 L.C. Begin & Associates, PLLC PMB 403 510 Highland Avenue Milford, MI 48381			EXAMINER CULBRETH, ERIC D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3616	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/31/2008	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Interview Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/826,437	QUIOC ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Culbreth	3616	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Eric Culbreth. (3)\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Mr. Keith Scheer, applicant's attorney. (4)\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: 28 October 2008.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: Proposed claims (attached).

Claim(s) discussed: 1-7 and 9-34.

Identification of prior art discussed: Kirchoff et al US3,972,545.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The proposed amendments would likely receive favorable consideration over Kirchoff et al; however, as the application is currently under final rejection, the proposed amendment, if filed as an amendment after final, may not be entered as raising new issues after final requiring further search and/or consideration.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Eric Culbreth/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3616

L.C. BEGIN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Intellectual Property Causes

510 Highland Avenue, PMB 403

Milford, Michigan 48381-1586

staff@beginlaw.com

Telephone  
(248) 889-5875

Facsimile  
(248) 887-7664

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: EXAMINER ERIC GULBRETH

FIRM: ~~U.S.P.T.O.~~ U.S.P.T.O.

FAX NO.: 571-273-6668

FROM: L.C. Begin & Associates, PLLC

DATE: 10/23/08

We are transmitting 6 pages, including this cover sheet.  
If this transmission is not complete, please contact  
Gail Boes at (248) 889-5875.

PROPOSED AMENDED CLAIMS FOR  
APPLN NO. 10/826,437

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: The information contained in this transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the named addressee, or the addressee's agent or employee responsible for delivering the message to the addressee(s), please note that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Anyone who receives this communication in error should notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the contents of this message and any and all attachments thereto.

10/826,437

To: Examiner Eric Culbreth  
From: Keith Scheer  
L.C. Begin & Associates  
Re: Application no. 10/826,437

Dear Examiner Culbreth:

Per our phone conversation today, enclosed for your review is a copy of proposed amended independent claims relating to the above-referenced application.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Keith Scheer

L.C. Begin & Associates, PLLC  
510 Highland Avenue  
PMB 403  
Milford, Michigan 48381  
248-889-5875 (phone)  
248-887-7664 (fax)

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: The information contained in this transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the named addressee, or the addressee's agent or employee responsible for delivering the message to the addressee(s), please note that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Anyone who receives this communication in error should notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the contents of this message and any and all attachments thereto.

10/826,437

1. (currently amended) An inflator comprising:
  - an inflator body;
  - a substantially cylindrical booster cup extending in said body, said booster cup having an outer peripheral wall and an end surface extending radially inwardly from said wall;
  - a plurality of apertures formed in said outer peripheral wall;
  - a first propellant charge positioned in said booster cup;
  - a second propellant charge positioned in said inflator body;
  - an initiator assembly operable to activate said first propellant charge,wherein a combustion thereof initiates a combustion of said second propellant charge and ejection of an inflation gas from said inflator body;
  - a filter abutting said booster cup end surface;
  - a perforated disc abutting said filter,
  - the filter comprising a wire mesh material extending continuously from the booster cup end surface to the perforated disc; and
  - a nozzle positioned at an end of said inflator and abutting said perforated disc for supplying an inflation gas.
  
7. (currently amended) An inflator for an inflatable restraint system in a vehicle comprising:
  - an inflator body having first and second ends and an inner peripheral wall;
  - a booster cup extending in said body and having an outer peripheral wall and an end surface extending inwardly from said outer peripheral wall, said booster cup having a first propellant charge positioned therein;
  - said inner peripheral wall and said outer peripheral wall are separated by a substantially annular space having a second propellant charge positioned therein;
  - an initiator assembly disposed proximate said first end and operable to ignite said first propellant charge;
  - a filter abutting said booster cup end surface;
  - a perforated disc abutting said filter; and

10/826,437

the filter comprising a wire mesh material extending continuously from the booster cup end surface to the perforated disc; and

a nozzle positioned at said second end of said body and abutting said perforated disc, said nozzle defining a nozzle outlet for supplying an inflation gas to the inflatable restraint system.

14. (currently amended) An inflatable restraint system for a motor vehicle comprising:

an inflatable restraint device;

an inflator operable to provide an inflation gas to said inflatable restraint device, said inflator comprising an elongate substantially cylindrical inflator body having first and second ends and an inner peripheral wall;

an elongate booster cup mounted to said inflator body proximate said first end and extending substantially coaxially therewith, said booster cup having an outer peripheral wall separated from said inner peripheral wall by an annular space, and a plurality of apertures formed in said outer peripheral wall;

a propellant charge positioned in said space;

a filter positioned in said inflator body abutting an end portion of the booster cup, said filter securing said propellant charge in said space;

a perforated disc abutting said filter; and

the filter comprising a wire mesh material extending continuously from the booster cup end surface to the perforated disc; and

a nozzle member proximate said second end of said inflator body and abutting said perforated disc, said nozzle member constraining said filter against axial displacement.

23. (currently amended) An inflatable airbelt system for a motor vehicle comprising:

an inflatable airbelt;

10/826,437

an inflator operable to provide an inflation gas to said airbelt, said inflator comprising an inflator body and a booster cup extending in said body, said booster cup having an outer peripheral wall and an end surface extending radially inwardly from said wall;

said booster cup includes a plurality of apertures formed in said outer peripheral wall;

a first propellant charge positioned in said booster cup;

a second propellant charge positioned in said inflator body;

an initiator assembly operable to activate said first propellant charge, wherein a combustion thereof initiates a combustion of said second propellant charge via said apertures;

a filter abutting said booster cup end surface;

a perforated disc abutting said filter; and

the filter comprising a wire mesh material extending continuously from the booster cup end surface to the perforated disc; and

a nozzle positioned at an end of said inflator and abutting said perforated disc for supplying an inflation gas to the inflatable restraint system.

27. (currently amended) An inflator module for a vehicle occupant protection system comprising:

a module housing;

an inflator positioned in said housing, said inflator comprising a booster cup mounted to within said inflator and extending substantially coaxially therewith, said booster cup having an outer peripheral wall partially defining an annular space and a plurality of apertures formed in said outer peripheral wall;

a propellant charge positioned in said space;

a filter positioned in said inflator abutting an end portion of said booster cup for securing said propellant charge in said space;

a perforated disc abutting said filter; and

the filter comprising a wire mesh material extending continuously from the booster cup end surface to the perforated disc; and

10/826,437

a nozzle positioned at an end of said inflator and abutting said perforated disc for supplying an inflation gas.

30. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a gas generator comprising the steps of:

positioning a booster cup within an elongate substantially cylindrical inflator body;

placing a propellant charge in a space extending between an outer peripheral wall of the booster cup and an inner peripheral wall of the inflator body;

inserting a filter member comprising a wire mesh material into the inflator body up to a point at which the filter bears against an end surface of the booster cup;

positioning a perforated disc abutting said filter member; ~~and~~ such that the wire mesh material extends continuously from the booster cup end surface to the perforated disc; and

positioning a nozzle member in the inflator body at a selected axial position and abutting said perforated disc such that the filter is constrained from axial movement between the nozzle member and the booster cup, whereby the filter secures the propellant charge in the space.